

Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG PARM

SUBJ: CSCE: CBM'S: PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS

REF: GENEVA 2869

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES DETAILS CONCERNING APRIL 25
INFORMAL MEETING OF CBM SUB-COMMITTEE PREVIOUSLY CITED IN
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS CABLE (GENEVA 2961) PLUS APRIL 28 MEETING

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS MADE AT NATO CAUCUS (REFTEL),
FRENCH REP APPROACHED GENERAL KUNTNER (AUSTRIA) PRIOR TO
APRIL 25 MEETING AND INFORMED HIM THAT ALLIES WERE PREPARED
INDICATE WILLINGNESS CONSIDER YUGOSLAV SUGGESTION CONCERNING
"VOLUNTARY BASIS" OF COMMITMENT. KUNTNER, WHO HAS BEEN
REGULARLY SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF INFORMAL SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETINGS, THEN PUT THE YUGOSLAV SUGGESTION IN WRITING AND
TABLED IT AS A CHAIRMAN'S "NON-PAPER" AT THE APRIL 25
MEETING. TEXT LEADS OFF WITH FIRST THREE PARAGRAPHS
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OF ORIGINAL ITALIAN WORKING PAPER (GENEVA 2823) AND ENDS

WITH FOLLOWING FOURTH PARA: "THE PARTICIPATING STATES, IN ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY, THEREFORE UNDERTAKE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS TO NOTIFY MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS AND THEY AGREE THAT PRIOR NOTIFICATION WILL ALWAYS BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS".

3. AFTER TEXT WAS TABLED, UK STATED THAT IT CONTAINED FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND THAT HIS DEL WAS PREPARED TAKE IT AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AT THE INFORMAL MEETINGS. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT MORE TIME WOULD BE NEEDED TO CONSIDER THE TEXT ADEQUATELY AND THAT HE HOPED SUB-COMMITTEE COULD MEANWHILE MOVE ON TO DISCUSSION OF PARAMETERS, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD PRODUCE FURTHER SIGNS OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY. SOVIET AMB MENDELEVITCH SAID TEXT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A SERIOUS EFFORT AND A STEP FORWARD. HE QUESTIONED NEED, HOWEVER, FOR FIRST THREE PARAS (TAKEN FROM ITALIAN TEXT) AND THOUGHT THE REFERENCE TO POLITICAL "RESPONSIBILITY" IN THE FOURTH PARA WAS INAPPROPRIATE AND PROBABLY SHOULD BE REPLACED BY REFERENCE TO POLITICAL "INTEREST". HE ALSO WAS CRITICAL OF TERMS "UNDERTAKE" AND "AGREE" IN FOURTH PARAGRAPH, COMMENTING THAT THESE WERE TREATY-TYPE WORDS USED WHEN A LEGAL OBLIGATION WAS INTENDED. IN ADDITION, MENDELEVITCH OBJECTED TO THE WORD "ALWAYS" IN THE FOURTH PARA WHICH HE SAID CONTRADICTED THE "VOLUNTARY BASIS". NONETHELESS HE STRESSED THAT TEXT TABLED BY KUNTNER MERITED FURTHER EXAMINATION AND THAT IT PUT SUB-COMMITTEE INTO A REAL NEGOTIATING SITUATION. AS RESULT OF THIS HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR HIM TO REPEAT HIS RECENT WARNING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING EARLIER SOVIET "CONCESSIONS".

4. BULGARIAN REP ALSO WELCOMED TEXT PUT FORWARD BY KUNTNER AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FACT THAT WORDS "VOLUNTARY BASIS" NOW APPEARED IN TEXT ON THE TABLE. BULGARIAN REP ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE ON THE TABLE TEXTS WHICH REPRESENTED ALL OF THE MAIN POSITIONS THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSED ON THE QUESTION OF THE NATURE OF COMMITMENT. BULGARIAN
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DELEGATION ACCORDINGLY WISHED TO PUT FORWARD TEXT OF ITS OWN. BULGARIAN REP EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD HESITATED DOING SO UNTIL THEN BECAUSE HE FEARED NOT ALL MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEE WERE ON SAME WAVE LENGTH REGARDING "VOLUNTARY BASIS". BULGARIAN TEXT TABLED READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE PARTICIPATING STATES, EXPRESSING THEIR INTEREST IN THE STRENGTHENING OF CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE (NATURE OF COMMITMENT), WHILE CONDUCTING MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS

OF TROOPS TOGETHER WITH ANY POSSIBLE AIR OR NAVAL COMPONENTS, CONSIDER IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SUCH MANEUVERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS".

5. BULGARIAN TEXT PRODUCED PEALS OF SPONTANEOUS LAUGHTER FROM MOST WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELS BECAUSE OF ITS EXAGGERATED WEAKING OF THE NOTIFICATION COMMITMENT. BULGARIAN AND SOVIET REPS SEEMED GENUINELY TAKEN ABACK BY THIS REACTION AND ARGUED THAT BULGARIAN TEXT HAD MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS AND THAT IN ANY CASE IT WAS NOT BEING PUT FORWARD ON A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS. ROMANIAN REP, WHO HAD BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF TEXT PUT FORWARD BY GENERAL KUNTNER, ATTACKED THE BULGARIAN PROPOSAL WITH GREAT RELISH, POINTING OUT THAT IT "EXPOSED" WHAT SOVIETS REALLY HAD IN MIND BY TERM "VOLUNTARY BASIS". ROMANIAN REITERATED THAT THIS APPROACH WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO HIS DELEGATION. AS MEETING DREW TO A CLOSE, MENDELEVITCH, RECOVERING HIS POISE, SAID THAT HE TRUSTED THAT THE LAUGHTER HE HAD HEARD WAS FRIENDLY AND THAT DELEGATIONS WOULD NONETHELESS STUDY THE BULGARIAN PROPOSAL CAREFULLY. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE SUB-COMMITTEE NEXT TURNED ITS ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF PARAMETERS, AS SUGGESTED BY THE BRITISH.

6. AT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 28 MENDELVITCH BEGAN BY REITERATING HIS DEFENSE OF BULGARIAN PROPOSAL AND ADMONISHING THE WESTERN DELS FOR THEIR LACK OF "SELF-DISCIPLINE" IN LAUGHING AT IT. MENDELVITCH THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF PARAMETERS AND REITERATED SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN DRAFTING PROVISION WHICH

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WOULD PROVIDE FOR GIVING NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. HE READILY AGREED WITH CANADIAN SUGGESTION, HOWEVER, THAT ACTUAL DRAFTING OF THIS FORMULATION COULD BE LEFT TO A SMALL GROUP TO DO LATER, AND DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF AREA.

7. MENDELVITCH SAID HE COULD CONFIRM SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO NOTIFY MANEUVERS, EITHER NATIONAL OR MULTINATION, IN WHICH ITS TROOPS WERE ENGAGED ANYWHERE IN EUROPE OUTSIDE THE USSR (I.E. WITHOUT RESTRICTION TO BORDER ZONES) PROVIDED THIS WAS LINKED WITH A "VOLUNTARY BASIS" COMMITMENT. HE REMINDED THE SUB-COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, THAT THE POLISH AND CZECH REPS HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS' WILLINGNESS TO NOTIFY MANEUVERS THROUGHOUT

THEIR OWN TERRITORY. WHEN QUESTIONED ON THIS BY THE DUTCH REP, THE CZECH REP CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS STILL A SENSITIVE ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO HIS AUTHORITIES AND HE MADE NO CHANGE IN THE PREVIOUS CZECH POSITION FAVORING BORDER ZONE NOTIFICATION.

8. TURNING TO QUESTION OF STRIP OF SOVIET TERRITORY TO BE COVERED, MENDELVITCH REITERATED SOVIET POSITION IN FAVOR OF 100 KILOMETER-WIDE BAND. IN ADDITION TO PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED ARGUMENTS, MENDELVITCH SAID THAT COVERAGE TO A DEPTH OF 100 KM WOULD RESULT IN A BALANCED SITUATION AS FAR AS NATO AND WARSAW PACT TERRITORIAL COVERAGE WAS CONCERNED; THAT IS, BOTH PACTS' TERRITORIES WOULD BE COVERED TO THE SAME DEPTH EAST AND WEST OF THE LINE ALONG WHICH THEIR FORCES FACED ONE ANOTHER. MENDELVITCH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER NOTIFYING MANEUVERS IN THEIR BORDER AREAS IN THE CAUCASUS OPPOSITE TURKEY. MEETING ENDED RATHER DEPRESSINGLY AFTER FURTHER REITERATIONS OF FAMILIAR POSITIONS ON AREA QUESTION BY WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELS. DALE

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